

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN:MR

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

S/S:O:DLMACK

IO:SWLEWIS

EUR:AAHARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 235347 TOSEC 270593

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY, GR

SUBJECT: UNGA: ALLOCATION OF CYPRUS ITEM

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB, LEWIS AND HARTMAN

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT TURKEY HAS SOUGHT OUR SUPPORT AND THAT OF OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS FOR A DECISION TO SEND THE CYPRUS ITEM TO THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE INSTEAD OF TO BOTH THE PLENARY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, AS HAD BEEN THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST. THE UK HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD US THEY SUPPORTED THE TURKISH EFFORT AND WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GERMANS ALSO SUPPORTED THE TURKS. YOU APPROVED OUR EARLIER RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT THE TURKS ASSUMING WE ARE JOINED BY SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES.

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2. THIS MORNING, THE VOTING PATTERN IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, WHICH DECIDES ON ALLOCATION, CHANGED. THE BRITISH RECEIVED NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN ON THE QUESTION ON THE GROUND THEIR NEUTRALITY WOULD ENABLE THEM TO PLAY A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE IN ENCOURAGING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES. GERMANY DECIDED TO ABSTAIN WITH THE UK. FRANCE WILL VOTE WITH GREECE.

3. WE THEN ASKED TAP BENNETT TO SOUND OUT WALDHEIM AND AMERASINGHE (WHO IS NOW PRESIDENT OF THE GA) ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR BRINGING THE GENERAL COMMITTEE TO DELAY A DECISION ON ALLOCATION. A POSTPONEMENT OF EVEN TWO WEEKS WOULD ALLOW YOU TO TALK TO THE GREEKS AND TURKS IN NEW YORK TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT THE PROBLEM. BOTH WALDHEIM AND AMERASINGHE TOOK THE POINT AND SAID THEY WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS, BOTH THE CYPRIOT AND THE GREEK AMBASSADORS REACTED NEGATIVELY -- WITH THE CYPRIOT MUCH STRONGER IN HIS OBJECTION.

4. THIS EVENING, SCRANTON WILL BE HAVING DINNER WITH WALDHEIM AND AMERASINGHE AND WILL SAY THAT WE PUT THE IDEA FORWARD NOT AS A US INITIATIVE BUT IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID UNNECESSARY CONTROVERSY WHICH COULD IMPEDE MOVEMENT TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS, TO AVOID A STERILE CONFRONTATION IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SCRANTON PLANS TO ENCOURAGE WALDHEIM AND AMERASINGHE TO CONTINUE TO CONSIDER WAYS OF POSTPONING. WE PLAN NO FURTHER INITIATIVES OURSELVES, HOWEVER.

5. AT THIS POINT, WE DOUBT THAT POSTPONEMENT WILL SUCCEED. THERE IS NO INCLINATION ON THE PART OF THE UK AND THE FRG TO MOVE AWAY FROM AN ABSTENTION. ACCORDINGLY, IF THE MATTER COMES UP FOR A VOTE TOMORROW IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (AS IT NORMALLY WILL) WE NOW PLAN TO ABSTAIN WITH THE UK AND FRG.

6. DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN; CLEARED BY: IO:SWLEWIS;
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EUR:AAHARTMAN; S/S:
APPROVED BY: P:PCHABIB.

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